THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Approval of Air India Engine Overhaul (Jet Shop) in category 'C' was withdrawn by the Director General of Civil Aviation following the audit of the shop on 21st May, 1996 and restored on 6th June, 1996.

[Translation]

Delivery of Dak in Rural Areas

5452. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the employees engaged in the delivery of dak in the rural areas of the country and facilities such as pay and allowances being given to them, category-wise;

(b) whether there is any resentment among these employees in regard to delivery of dak;

(c) if so, whether the people of rural areas have complained against these employees in regard to delivery of dak ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to resolve their problems ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) 1. As on 31.03.1996, 79958 Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entrusted with the job of postal delivery work in rural areas of the country. The Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entitled to consolidated monthly allowances ranging between Rs. 240/- and Rs. 420/- depending on their workload. In addition, they are also paid the following :

(i) Dearness Allowance @ 148% of basic allowance.

(ii) Interim Relief of Rs. 100/- per month.

(iii) Fixed Stationery Charges @ Rs. 2/- per month.

(iv) Cycle Maintenance Allowance where applicable @ Rs. 30/- per month.

(v) Ex-gratia bonus paid once a year on the basis of their actual emoluments for the same number of days as paid to departmental employees.

(vi) Uttarakhand Division Allowance

The Extra Departmental Agents of Uttarakhand Division are being paid an extra allowance of Rs. 40/- per annum in the month of September every year provided they have worked continuously as Extra Departmental Agent since March of that year

(vii) Group Insurance Scheme

The Extra Departmental Agents are also covered by a Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 1.4.1992. The scheme is optional for the Extra Departmental Agents already in employment before 1.4.1994 and is compulsory for the Extra Departmental Agents appointed on or after 1.4.1992. The scheme gives a risk cover for Rs. 10,000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month. Out of this, Rs. 3.50 goes for insurance cover and Rs. 6.50 is the savings component. If an Extra Departmental Agent retires or leaves his job, he is paid the accumulated savings component with interest. In case of death, the nominee is paid Rs. 10,000/- plus accumulated savings component.

(viii) Ex-gratia Gratuity Rs. 6,000/-. The minimum mandatory service required for payment of Ex-gratia Gratuity is ten years.

2. There is no resentment among the ED Agents engaged in delivery of Dak in rural areas in regard to the delivery work.

3. There are instances of people of rural areas complaining against the employees in regard to delivery of Dak. These complaints relate to delay in delivery of mail and payment of money-orders in rural areas. This delay occurs due to various reasons such as cancellation/ late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods, landslides etc.

4. Efforts made by the Government to resolve the problems relating to delivery of dak in rural areas include holding regular meetings with the State Transport Authorities, Indian Airlines, Railways and their appropriate authorities at the State and National level. The transmission and delivery of mails and money orders in rural areas is also continuously monitored at various levels and prompt remedial action is taken wherever failures are noticed.

[English]

Telephone Adalats in Delhi

5453. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telephone Adalats organised in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases settled;

(c) whether such Adalats are proposed to be organised at the State level also; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 12 Adalats have been held during the last three years i.e. 1993, 1994, 1995 in MTNL, Delhi.